

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. - 28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) A photofinishing method for managing workflow in a photofinishing lab, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving images at the photofinishing lab, said images being received from multiple customer orders;  
associating each image with identification data;  
sending each image and its associated identification data to a processing unit, the processing unit analyzing said image with reference to image data representative of an optimum image to provide for an optimized image, and creating batches of digital images from said multiple customer orders, the images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of images may include images from different customer orders, said processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said images to output devices based on at least the associated identification data;  
providing an image product based on the image at an output device of said output devices which is appropriate for the image product; and  
combining the image product from the output device with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

30. (original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the output device is at least one of an optical printer, a thermal printer, an inkjet printer, a laser printer or a digital silver halide printer.

31. (original) A method according to claim 29, comprising the further step of manipulating said analyzed obtained image based on said reference image data.

Approved  
for Entry  
-JL  
7/29/05